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Democratic Germany Plans to Overhaul West Zone in Next Three Years

The standard of living of all workers in the German Democratic Republic can exceed the standard in West Germany by 1961, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht announced at the Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party held in East Berlin from July 10th to 16th.

Walter Ulbricht, who is First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party, told the Congress that the Democratic Republic had already overhauled West Germany in the per capita consumption of nearly all foodstuffs, and that proper development of industry would make it possible to catch up with regard to consumer goods too. The main points of Walter Ulbricht's keynote speech to the Congress are given below.

Delegates from 48 Communist and Workers' parties in all parts of the world attended the Congress, the fifth held by the Socialist Unity Party since its foundation in 1946 as a result of the merging of the old Communist Party and Social Democratic Party organisations in the eastern part of Germany.

Leader of the Soviet delegation to the Congress was Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov, who reiterated the Soviet viewpoint that German unity could only be achieved by means of negotiations between Germans, and not by outside forces.

The Congress was still in progress as this issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press.

Points from Walter Ulbricht's Report

Here are some of the main points made by Walter Ulbricht in his comprehensive report to the Party Congress of the Socialist Unity Party:

"We stand in the front line in the socialist camp, on the open main front in Western Europe between the two world systems. Socialism and capitalism confront one another on German soil. Our job is to give a practical demonstration on German soil of the superiority of the socialist social system in all fields.

"We shall be able to carry out this historic task if we are able to speed-up the tempo of economic construction, and to increase production above the plan targets in 1959 and 1960.

"It is quite possible that the standard of living in the German Democratic Republic will be higher than that in West Germany by the end of 1961. To reach this goal we shall have to reach world standards in certain fields of science and technology, and further increase agricultural production through a further development of the agricultural production cooperatives.

Living Standards

"The economy of the German Democratic Republic will have to be so developed in the next few years that the superiority of the socialist system in the German Democratic Republic over the imperialist system in West Germany is clearly proved. The per capita consumption of all important foodstuffs and consumer goods by our working people must equal and exceed the per capita consumption in West Germany.

"At present our Republic has overhauled West Germany in the per capita consumption of nearly all foodstuffs, and we must catch up in consumer goods by 1961/62.

Industrial Production

"The Third Five Year Plan (1960—1965) must result in a gross increase in production of at least 50 per cent. This will mean that by 1965 industrial production will be twice as high as in 1957.

"A key role will be played by the chemical industry. Production in the chemical industry must be increased by 60 per cent, that is to say faster than production as a whole. Mineral oil will take its place alongside soft coal to an increasing degree as the

(cont. on next page)

Stationing Costs to End

From the beginning of 1959, the German Democratic Republic will cease to pay any stationing costs towards the upkeep of the Soviet troops stationed on its territory, the Soviet Government officially announced on July 11th.

The stationing costs have been radically cut in instalments over the past few years, and at present amount to 600 million marks annually. The Soviet Government announced that they would now be cancelled entirely "in order to aid the speedy development of the economy, and to further increase the material standards of the people of the friendly German Democratic Republic".

main raw material for the chemical industry. During the Third Five Year Plan we shall tap our own oil-fields in the Republic, and increase imports from the present figure of 1,500,000 tons to 4,800,000 tons. Such huge quantities of oil can only be economically moved by pipe-line, and for this reason during the Third Five Year Plan we shall construct, together with the Soviet Union and those socialist countries which are interested, a pipe line which will also supply our Republic.

"During the Third Five Year Plan we shall construct two very modern large scale power stations at Luebbenau and Vetschau. They will be the largest power stations in the world using soft coal as fuel, and will produce about 15 thousand million kilowatt hours: that is about half the present total power production in the German Democratic Republic, and about equivalent to the total production of electricity in Holland.

Rebuilding the Cities

"We have set ourselves the task of reconstructing the centres of our destroyed cities by 1965. All the scars left by the Second World War must be removed by 1962, and parks must be created where reconstruction is not yet possible.

"Some historic buildings, however, should be retained in their ruined state, as a reminder for our people of the fascist domination and the catastrophe of war.

Peace Treaty for Germany

"It is necessary to tear down the wall erected between the two halves of Germany by the remilitarisation of West Germany and its inclusion in NATO. The drafting of a peace treaty would help to tear down this wall. What must the principles of such a peace treaty be?

1. Germany should become a peace-loving, democratic and independent state by means of the establishment of a confederation of the two German states.

2. Germany should be a sovereign state, attached to no military block or economic association such as the Montan Union. This entails that West Germany must leave NATO and that the German Democratic Republic leaves the Warsaw Pact.

3. In the reunited Germany all German citizens shall be guaranteed human rights and basic liberties, without distinction of race, sex or religion. Democratic parties and associations shall have the right of free activity and free decision on their affairs, and will have the right to a free press. It will not be sufficient just to lay down these basic rights in laws: they must be made a reality by the abolition of the domination of militarist and fascist forces. In a peaceful democratic Germany there will be no place for organisations opposed to the cause of peace and democracy.

4. Germany shall be guaranteed the full development of its peaceful economy, and unhindered access to the markets of the world.

5. The territory of Germany shall be bounded by the frontiers laid down by the Big Four in the decisions of the Potsdam Conference.

6. Germany shall be permitted to maintain national armed forces for defensive purposes.

The Transitional Period

"In the German Democratic Republic the economic laws of capitalism are gradually being replaced by the economic laws of socialism. These new forms meet with a lack of understanding on the part of many people, since they differ from their old habits. For this reason the Party and the state must never tire of explaining the connections. The problems of the transitional period must be talked over with the masses . . .

"The Central Committee has conducted a decisive fight against revisionism. Modern revisionism, which takes the form of national socialism or 'national communism' is an expression of the influence of the ideology of the bourgeoisie in the workers' movement.

"Revisionism in the German Democratic Republic is particularly dangerous, since it prevents the overcoming of the existing contradictions in a socialist way, increases the difficulties, and opens the path for the restoration of capitalism.

MORE CARS, FRIDGES, SHOES

The factories of the German Democratic Republic will greatly speed-up the production of various consumer goods in the next three years, Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht announced on July 10th. Here are the target figures which he announced for some goods:

	1957	1961
Cars	21,500	68,000
Refrigerators	28,000	130,000
Leather Shoes	16,500 thousand	23,500 thousand
Wool Cloth	24,500 thousand square metres	48,700 thousand square metres
Perlon Textiles	1,600 thousand square metres	8,400 thousand square metres

Ten Commandments for Socialists

In his speech to the Socialist Unity Party Congress, Walter Ulbricht sketched the following ten commandments for socialists:

1. You should always work for the international solidarity of the working class and all toilers, and for the unbreakable alliance of all socialist countries.

2. You should love your homeland, and always be ready to devote your entire strength and ability to the defence of the workers' and peasants' power.

3. You should help to end the exploitation of man by man.

4. You should do good deeds for socialism, since socialism brings a better standard of living for all workers.

5. In the building of socialism you should act in the spirit of mutual aid and cooperation, you should respect the collective, and heed its criticism.

6. You should guard and increase the property of the people.

7. You should always endeavour to improve your output, to be economical, and to strengthen socialist working discipline.

8. You should bring up your children in the spirit of peace and socialism, so that they will be well-educated, firm in character, and steeled in body.

9. You should live a clean and decent life, and respect your family.

10. You should practice solidarity with those peoples fighting for their national liberation and defending their national independence.

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THOSE NAZI CRIMINALS

An Editorial Statement

Ever since its foundation in 1952, GERMAN REPORT has consistently exposed the unpunished war criminals at large and in comfortable positions in West Germany.

In the past year, we have published long lists of former nazis who now occupy key posts in the West German judicial system, men who were judges and prosecutors in Hitler's terror courts, and who are now back in similar positions under Adenauer.

In recent weeks, under the pressure of world public opinion, the West German courts have been forced to take action against some of the outstanding criminals, and at the end of June Martin Sommer, hangman of Buchenwald Concentration Camp, has finally been sentenced to life imprisonment.

Evidence given in the trial threw a lurid light on the activities of another nazi official in Buchenwald Concentration Camp — Dr. Hans Eisele. This gentleman had been camp doctor, and had killed many prisoners by giving them injections of poison.

He was sentenced to death by a U. S. Court in 1947, but his sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, and he was released in 1952.

The West German authorities greeted him as a "late-returning prisoner of war", and he received a total of nearly £3000 as "compensation". With this money, and with official help, he established himself in practice at 31 Baecker Strasse, Munich.

When his name came into the news again in connection with the trial of Martin Sommer, Dr. Eisele decided it would be more discrete to leave West Germany, and on July 9th it was officially stated in West Germany that he had fled to Egypt.

Asked why no action had been taken to detain Dr. Eisele, or prevent him from practising as a doctor, the Munich Police stated that they had no idea that he had been a war criminal. Two days later, on July 11th, the Bavarian Minister of Justice suspended the Public Prosecutor of Munich, Max von Decker, on suspicion that he had helped Dr. Eisele to flee from justice. Max von Decker had been a member of the nazi party from 1931, it was announced.

As a result of this scandal, the Bavarian Ministry of Justice would check the records of judges and prosecutors, the Miniser announced.

This action comes better late than never, but GERMAN REPORT suggests that it would have been better to shut the door before the horse had fled. The excuse that nobody knew that Dr. Eisele was a criminal is childish. On February 13th 1953, more than five years ago, GERMAN REPORT reported details of his career and that of other nazi criminals under the headline "These War Criminals Are Wanted". Similar details were published in a number of other papers both in East and West Germany.

In the course of the past year, the Committee for German Unity in East Berlin has given very full documentary information on more than 300 West German judges and prosecutors who were not only members of the nazi party, but who actively participated in the sentences of death passed by Hitler's special courts.

For the information of the Bavarian Ministry of Justice, here are short details of one or two of these gentlemen who fall within its competence:

Dr. Riepenhausen, Senior Provincial Court Counsellor in Bamberg, Bavaria. Riepenhausen is named on the official Polish War Criminal List. As judge in a nazi special court in occupied Poland he passed at least two death sentences for resistance activities.

Dr. Schwingenschloegl, Public Prosecutor in Kempten, Bavaria. During the war he was judge in a nazi special court in Munich and passed sentence of death on three French and one Belgian slave labourer for resistance activities.

Dr. Poertl, Court Councillor in Munich, Bavaria. During the war he was public prosecutor in occupied Prague, obtaining death sentences on many Czechs accused of resistance activity.

GERMAN REPORT will be glad to provide full documentary evidence of the wartime crimes of these and dozens of other West German judges and prosecutors to the Bavarian Ministry of Justice.

He doesn't like the British

The Goettingen education authorities are taking proceedings against a sixty-year-old middle school teacher who repeatedly told the boys in his class that one ought to seize the English by the throat, bite it through and throw it away. When asked to explain the remark the teacher, Walter Staedtler, said he was only refering to the "unmusical English language".

Brick-Drop Envoy Re-Instated

Former Embassy Councillor Oscar Schlitter, who was sent on extended leave from the West German Embassy in London in 1955 after his wife Daisy had dropped a brick, has been reinstated and will again receive a post in an embassy abroad. The brick dropped by Daisy Schlitter in the German Embassy in London at a Christmas party: "We are in enemy territory here."

GDR Honours Darwin

A special green and black 10 pfennig stamp was issued on June 19th 1958 to commemorate the centenary of Charles Darwin's famous book "The Origin of Species". The stamp shows a head of Darwin and a short text: "100 Years' Theory of Evolution." It was designed by Rudolf Skribelka, Berlin.

Public Health — Facts & Figures

There are 302 large and 263 smaller municipal health centres in East Germany, nearly all of them attached to hospitals. They have the usual medical departments, and also dental clinics.

There are 82 large factory health centres, 165 smaller centres and 3,405 first aid centres.

There are 345 country health centres and 4,231 district nurses' stations.

The social insurance service has spent 474.2 million marks on medicaments and medicinal treatments — 27 marks a year per head of the population. (Expenditure per head of the population in West Germany is 15 marks.)

653 million marks were paid out to working mothers in pregnancy and delivery allowances between October 1950 and December 1957.

The government spends 170 million marks a year on the anti-TB campaign, most of which is spent on preventive measures.

The social insurance service has paid out 813 million marks in sick pay.

The Reluctant Guests

By a Correspondent

I have often been to Dresden, one of my favourite cities in the German Democratic Republic, even though it was so terribly damaged during World War Two.

The other day I went there again, this time with a handful of other foreign reporters. Our convoy, organised by the Foreign Ministry, pulled up about midday before a pleasant house surrounded by a garden. The only thing distinguishing it from the other neighbouring villas was that a People's Army officer was standing outside.

We had arrived at the villa where the 9 American officers who made a forced landing on GDR territory on June 7 were staying. We walked into the hall and were told the men were in their rooms so we went upstairs to see them.

All nine were in one of the three bedrooms at their disposal. The American correspondent in the party told them what papers we represented and that we would like to question them.

Major George Kemper, the senior officer, said the men would like to discuss our request and so we went downstairs to have a look at the rest of the house. The men have a lounge, complete with television set, chess boards and packs of cards; their dining room looking out on the garden was already set for lunch. In the garden was a volley ball net already in place and where the men play each day, we were told.

While we were waiting for them a People's Army major gave us details of their daily routine. At 7 a. m. the men are awakened and breakfast is at 8 a. m. The rest of the day they can do more or less what they want provided they remain within the confines of the house and its garden. 'Lights out' is between 10.30 and 11 p. m.

With their meals they can have wine, beer or soft drinks, but no spirits. Cigarettes and tobacco as well as sweets are provided; so are new socks and underclothing each week.

In the evenings the men play chess, cards or watch television. On three occasions they have had a film show, about which Major Kemper subsequently reported.

When the officers came downstairs (there are two majors, three captains, two 1st Lieutenants, a Warrant Officer and a Sergeant) they had all changed into their newly-cleaned and pressed uniforms, complete with medals.

Major Kemper explained he would be spokesman for the others and gave his version of what had happened. He and the others (nearly all professional soldiers and members of the 3rd Armoured Division of the United States Army stationed in Western Germany) were in the helicopter to travel from Frankfurt to Grafenwoehr, in Southern Germany. Somehow the helicopter strayed off its course — incidentally it strayed a very long way — and eventually made a forced landing in the Karl-Marx district of the GDR.

The nine men were taken to a nearby Soviet army depot and within a fev hours handed over to the East German People's Army. Since that first encounter they had not seen any Soviet officers or soldiers, Major Kemper reported.

In answer to our questions he said, among other things, the nine men had been "treated courteously ... they have given us cigarettes and candy ... and enough to eat." They are not subjected to intensive propaganda; however, they yearned for comics, "something with cowboys and Indians."

When one journalist asked Major Kemper whether the officers shared the opinion of the United States Secretary of State Mr. Dulles that they had been 'kidnapped' there was no reply. Similarly, there was silence when a GDR foreign officer spokesman pointed out that hitherto the American Government had made no effort whatsoever to try to establish direct contact with the officers.

The fact is that on four occasions — on June 14th, 16th, 18th and 19th — a member of the American Military Mission accredited in Potsdam to the Soviet Government has been received by the GDR Deputy Foreign Minister Otto Winzer. Herr Winzer has justifably pointed out that the GDR has no American military mission accredited to it and it cannot therefore recognise its representative as entitled to negotiate. It has justifiably demanded that the American Government empower the gentleman in question to represent it. Since this has not been accepted the negotiations on the return of the nine men and their helicopter cannot proceed further.

In this connection the GDR foreign office spokesman was patience itself in explaining the situation to the nine officers. He pointed out that they could be with their families in Western Germany within a very short time if their government were as realistic as the Belgian Government. He was referring to the recent successful negotiations between GDR and Belgian Government representatives on the return of a pilot and his plane which made a forced landing in the GDR.

Arrangements have been made through the Red Cross for the men to send and receive letters from their families. One Red Cross consignment of supplies, but no letter, has already arrived; we had visible proof of this as some of the men were smoking 'Lucky Strike' cigaretes. How long they remain in their Dresden villa obviously depends on the American Government.

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"BLACK PUMP"

East Germany's Giant Project Will Produce 100,000 Tons of Coal Daily

By Phyllis Rosner

Standing on the road to Hoyerswerda and looking at the huge area covered with cranes, concrete towers and building constructions at all stages, it was hard to believe that less than three years ago this had been only sand and a few stunted pine trees.

It is here — about one hundred miles south-east of Berlin — that Europe's largest soft-coal combine, in other words Operation "Black Pump", is rapidly taking shape. When, in 1964, it is completed it will increase many-fold the producing and processing of soft coal in the German Democratic Republic.

Soft coal, which has a higher water content than the hard coal mined in Britain, is one of the GDR's most valuable and, one might almost say, versatile materials. At present yearly production is 200 million tons; by 1960 it will increase to 260 million tons.

And in the "Black Pump" area there is an estimated 30,000 million tons of this "brown gold". When the combine starts full production it will turn out 100,000 tons of soft coal daily. Every year "Black Pump" will produce six million tons of soft-coal briquettes and two-and-a-half million tons of soft-coal coke. It will produce enormous quantities of gas (about 105 thousand million cubic feet) and electric power, tar, and synthetic petrol.

Its 16,000 workers will help produce also the raw materials for many medicaments, for soap, gramophone records, fertilisers and even diaphanous perlon material.

When we visited the site of this exciting and ambitious project we were lucky enough to have as our guide Lothar Beier, one of the "Black Pump" pioneers. Beier, now 33 years old, works at the "Black Pump" radio station. He had taken a day off, however, to show us something of this industrial giant, for which the GDR Government has earmarked three thousand million marks. This sum includes the cost of opening up four new open-cast coal fields.

We went to the radio station to have a preliminary chat with Beier. He explained that the combine will eventually comprise four open-cast pits and three complete "units" each consisting of a briquette factory, a coke-producing plant and an electric power station. Within the next few months the first subsidiary plants, an electric power station and a soft-coal briquette plant, will be in operation.

As we were talking Beier's colleagues were broadcasting details of the cultural programme for that evening before putting on a musical programme for the lunch-hour period. The station starts work at 5 a. m. by waking up the builders on the early shift.

At the controls was 27-year old Rita Oppitz, "loving every minute here", as she told us. Mrs. Oppitz came to "Black Pump" two years ago with her husband, a crane-driver. Between them they earn a thousand marks net each month. They are now busy building their own 5-room house, complete with central heating, a garden and garage for their car.

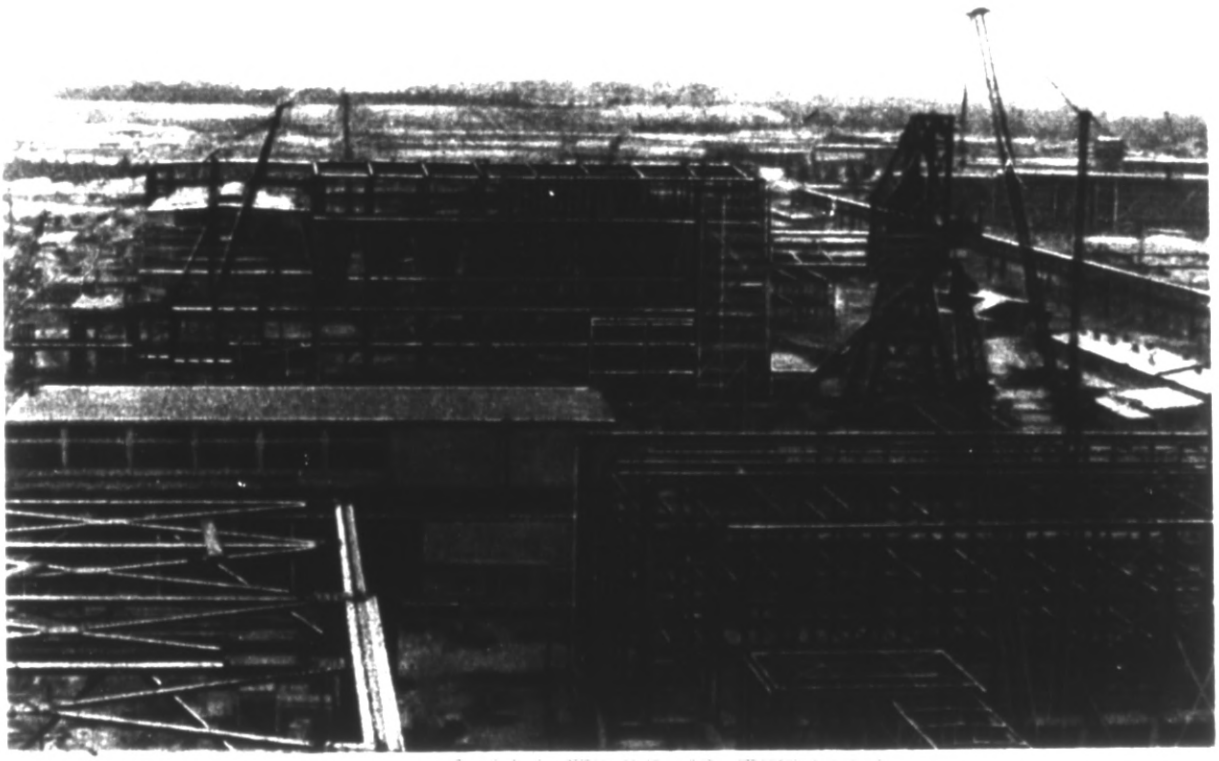
"We enjoy it here", she said, "and wouldn't dream of leaving "Black Pump". It's a good feeling to take part in a project like this and watch it growing almost daily."

Beier started to reminisce about the early days, even before the foundation stone was laid on August 31, 1955. "The biggest trouble was finding people to do the job", he told us. "At first we couldn't be very choosey and we had to take more or less whom we could find. This included former hairdressers and even circus performers; naturally they had to learn about building from scratch.

"Among them were some who thought they were on a 'good thing', they believed they could earn easy money without working for it. However, they left very quickly because we expect people in the German Democratic Republic to earn their living by honest work and help construct their country."

Now there are between twelve and thirteen thousand builders working on this huge project, most of them experts in their job. When the combine starts producing there will be enough skilled workers as they are now being trained to take over. Their homes will be in the new Socialist city of Hoyerswerda, being constructed simultaneously with the combine. A special railway, with trains running at five-minute intervals during the rush period, will connect the new city with the combine.

Lothar Beier, Black Pump pioneer, poses in front of new building which will form part of industrial giant



General view of new factory buildings at Black Pump

"We are striving to create an atmosphere of learning", Beier explained. In the first place, "Black Pump" needs experienced and trained engineers and workers of all kinds and secondly, an atmosphere of learning helps solve some of the problems inevitably arising when men are separated from their families, as is often the case in the combine.

One of the main problems is providing sufficiently interesting occupations in the evenings so that the men do not spend too much time and money in the pubs. On the site there are houses of culture and clubs with television and radio sets, table-tennis rooms, darts, chess and draughts; there are sports' associations and every evening a film, concert or play.

Above all, there are evening courses of all kinds. 25-year old Rudi Kittel was telling us a few minutes later as we were standing with him in the midst of a maze of steel girders and cranes, "There are unbelievable opportunities for study here. I started out as an ordinary builder; now I am a foreman. I am taking an engineers' course and when I am finished in two years' time I'll have a much more responsible job and I'll be earning much more."

We strolled over to the road leading to Hoyerswerda. Right opposite where we were standing was the country inn, "Gasthaus zur Schwarzen Pumpe" or "Black Pump Inn", which has given its name to the combine. Beier pointed to a rather dilapidated kiosk saying, "We built that in eight days because when the men came to work from the surrounding area (now many of them are housed on the site itself) they wanted to be able to buy cigarettes and a beer or lemonade." Now they have a wide range of shops on the site where they can buy food, clothing, sports articles etc. If they want a hot meal they can eat in the canteens for 80 pfennigs; more expensive meals are available too. Many of them come and eat in the vastly enlarged "Black Pump" inn.

Mr. Portsberg, former owner of the inn now taken over by the state catering organisation, recalled his first meeting with Beier. "I was very sceptical in the summer of 1955 when I was told that right opposite our inn this huge combine — about nine square miles in area — was planned. I really never thought it would materialise but now I can convince myself of it every day."

Mr. Portsberg and his son run the inn for the state, and get a good salary and rent. They have a new car, a magnificent television set and Mrs. Portsberg is known for her elegant clothing.

Mr. Portsberg said, "You know we really couldn't have managed it ourselves. The men don't just want a drink, they want something to eat too. Now, we have a staff of over twenty, the men are satisfied and we can't grumble."

The question of catering is only one of a whole host of problems involved in this complex project. 800 firms are working on the job, among them are small, medium-sized and large firms. Some are privately owned, others are co-operatives or state-owned. They will have used as much steel as the distance between Berlin and Belgrade (Back Pump's sand is too muddy to be used on the job) and as much cable as the distance between Berlin and Athens.

"Black Pump" is being constructed with several thousand fewer workers than originally planned, but nobody has any doubts that it will not be finished on time, if not earlier. It will be of inestimable value in helping the GDR still further develop its industry and its export programme.

British Miners Study East Germany

Three British miners from the Northumberland coalfields went on a ten-day trip of the East German metal and coal mines in July. They had several favourable comments to make on what they saw.

Mr. James Dean, Northumberland miners' leader, said that his general impression were very good — especially of the nursery schools and of medical care in the pits.

"I feel that miners here have a great advantage over us in Britain" he said. He also thought that the speedy medical care which miners at the coal face get here definitely cuts down the effect of accidents.

Mr. Joseph Howey remarked that "everybody can bring his grievances up. It doesn't matter who it is, and you can get things seen to at once. If the management isn't satisfied, it can go to the grievance committee and so can the workers. The great thing is that there's no delay."

Mr. John Hamilton was enthusiastic about paid holidays here.

"From what we have heard, you are better off than we are. We get two weeks' holiday, whereas here the miners get 24 working days. And on retirement, too, you're well in advance of us. We retire at 65 but your miners here retire at 50. And I was vastly impressed by the young people in the pits. You get young fellows of 26 and 30 in important positions in management."

Mr. Hamilton also commented on sick pay here. "You have a good agreement" he said. "When workers go sick they get 90 per cent of wages from the first day off. And then what you call your night sanatoria. If a chap isn't too well he can spend the night in one of these, get treatment for a month and still go on working. That's a good thing."

A delegation of miners from Zwickau in the German Democratic Republic will visit the Northumberland miners this month. "We need to extend this movement a little further", Mr. Hamilton added.

Hanns Eisler is Sixty

Hanns Eisler, internationally known revolutionary German composer, celebrated his 60th birthday on July 6th 1958.

Eisler joined the socialist youth movement while he was still at school in Vienna, and his first longer work was entitled "Against War". He lived and worked in Berlin during the 1920's, in close cooperation with Erich Weinert, Bertolt Brecht and Ernst Busch. During this period he composed the music for a number of workers' songs which have since been sung all over the world.

Forced to emigrate from nazi Germany in 1933, Eisler worked with Bertolt Brecht in Denmark, wrote songs for the International Brigade in Spain, then lived in the USA until he was able to return to Europe in 1948.

While in the USA he composed a number of striking orchestral works, the music for Brecht's play, "Galileo" and for the stage version of Gorki's "The Mother". He also composed music for films.

In 1947 Eisler was arrested and interrogated by the Committee for Un-American Activities, but world-wide protest led to his release.

He returned to Europe in 1948 and took over the position of Professor of Composition in the newly established Academy of Music in Berlin.

Eisler has composed an enormous quantity of music during the past ten years — not only revolutionary songs (including the music to the national anthem of the German Democratic Republic), but also longer works like the "Goethe Rhapsody" and extremely striking and revolutionary music for many plays and films. He is at present working on a "German Symphony".

Hanns Eisler is a member of the German Academy of Arts and has been awarded the National Prize, First Class.

Amongst the birthday greetings which poured in from all over the world were messages from Dimitri Shostakovich, Charlie Chaplin, Lion Feuchtwanger and Benjamin Britten.

East German scholars do practical work in factories and farms as part of their education. More on this subject in one of the next issues.

GUEST NOTEBOOK

By Joan Becker

Thoughts turn to holidays on the occasional warm, sunny day, and this reminds me of a question which friends in England often ask: where do East Germans go for their holidays?

Germans on holiday from West Germany, they say, are to be met with all over the place; but a German on holiday abroad — (and not with a delegation) — from the German Democratic Republic is almost a seven days' wonder.

Well, of course, the German Democratic Republic is much smaller and has only about a quarter the population of West Germany. The majority, too, are still happy to go off to the Baltic Coast or into the mountains somewhere inside the Republic.

There is lovely holiday country here and you can take a very cheap fortnight through your trade union, if you manage to get a holiday check — and very many thousands do get these checks every year.

You can also arrange through the German League of Culture and the German Travel Service to take a longer and more expensive holiday without a trade union subsidy. There are, too, a number of coach tours to the Harz mountains, the Saxon Alps or the Erzgebirge mountains, lasting anything from four to fourteen days.

People in the higher income brackets — engineers, doctors, university professors, top-notch artists and actors etc. — can take advantage of holiday tours to the other people's democracies, including far-off Albania, to the Soviet Union and even a lightning trip to China, with thousands of miles of air travel, enormously interesting but you need to take a rest cure after it. But these are all pretty expensive and you can only travel with a group, for there are as yet no provisions for non-organised holiday trips.

However, for very young people there are some very simple and inexpensive arrangement. Starting with school children — nearly seventy per cent of all school children in the Republic — will spend part of their summer holidays on the Baltic coast or in the mountains. 600,000 children will go to more than 6,000 factory camps, 91,000 from Berlin alone.

Total government subsidies for the children's holiday campaign will amount to 65 million marks in 1958, compared with 47 million marks last year. So that the actual cost to parents who are trade union members is only twelve marks for three weeks' holiday at the sea or in the mountains. Berlin factories alone have 430 of these summer children's camps.

Then there are the children's tourist camps there they can put up for fourteen days for a charge of from three to five marks, and camps for about 5,000 young pioneers.

Young people over school age — apprentices, middle and high school students and other young workers — now have many more opportunities for really cheap holidays since a young tourists' committee took on the job of organising a number of tourist routes inside the Republic, with youth hostels at suitable intervalls; it is only necessary to register at the first hostel and after that there will a bed waiting at each successive hostel on the particular route chosen. A bed only costs fifty pfennigs for grownups and 25 pfennigs for schoolchildren and students, since the hostels get generous government subsidies.

There are tent camps all along the Baltic Sea and the inland lakes, too, where there is only a very small camping fee to pay. Tens of thousands of young people take advantage of these and their holidays cost them next to nothing.

Still, even young people like to get out and see the world, and last year about 18,000 — this year it will be nearly 25,000 — spent two or three weeks in the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania or Bulgaria.

This year, too, the first tourists will go to Yugoslavia and Finland and a small number to France. Holidays in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Rumania are mainly in tent camps; in Poland there are tourist hotels and overnight hostels similar to those in the German Democratic Republic, and tours to the USSR are run by Intourist and by the trade unions. Nearly all of these are on an exchange basis, so that there are no money difficulties. The exchange tourists use the hostels and tent camps in the Republic, so that it does not cost them much either.

Prices can be kept down because the various organisations — Free German Youth, League of Culture, trade unions etc. — provide organisers, and language students are always glad to try their hand at interpreting without expecting to be paid for it.

A fortnight's tour in Poland, for instance, costs 290 marks (about what you pay for a medium quality winter coat here), including the equivalent of 50 marks' pocket money, from the Polish frontier.

Fourteen-day trips to Czechoslovakia, generally to the Tatra mountains, cost 315 marks including 50 marks' pocket money, to Hungary 360 marks and to Rumania and Bulgaria 410 marks and 485 marks — all inclusive of pocket money. The prices increase with distance; in fact, the journey uses up a large part of the money.

All these prices, however, are about half of what the German Travel Bureau charges for regular tours with tip-top hotel accomodation.

And a surprisingly large number of young workers earning 400 or 500 marks a month, with additional bonuses from time to time, really can manage to save up for a holiday of this kind once in a while; the whole thing can go on expanding for some time.

Then there are some special exchange arragements with Poland and Czechoslovakia for sailing and boating enthusiasts, motor cyclists, cyclists and hikers. Fourteen-day trips of this kind cost only 210 marks.

Fourteen days in Yugoslavia, on the Adriatic coast cost 550 marks for young people; this is a lot of money, but when you think of the blue Adriatic and the romantic, wild Yugoslav countryside, it seems well worth while to go without some non-essentials for a while. The other Yugoslav tour is even more exciting — including a trip on a raft along the Drina river for 510 marks.

The small group visiting France this year are the first young tourists to go to a West European country from the German Democratic Republic purely on a touring holiday. If currency difficulties could be solved and diplomatic and consular arrangements made, lots of young Germans from the German Democratic Republic would pack their rucksacks and set out on cheap walking or cycling tours through the Scandinavian countries, or to Italy or England. The Germans love their own Baltic coast and all the seaside resorts are packed to overflowing every summer. But the Mediterranean calls them too.

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